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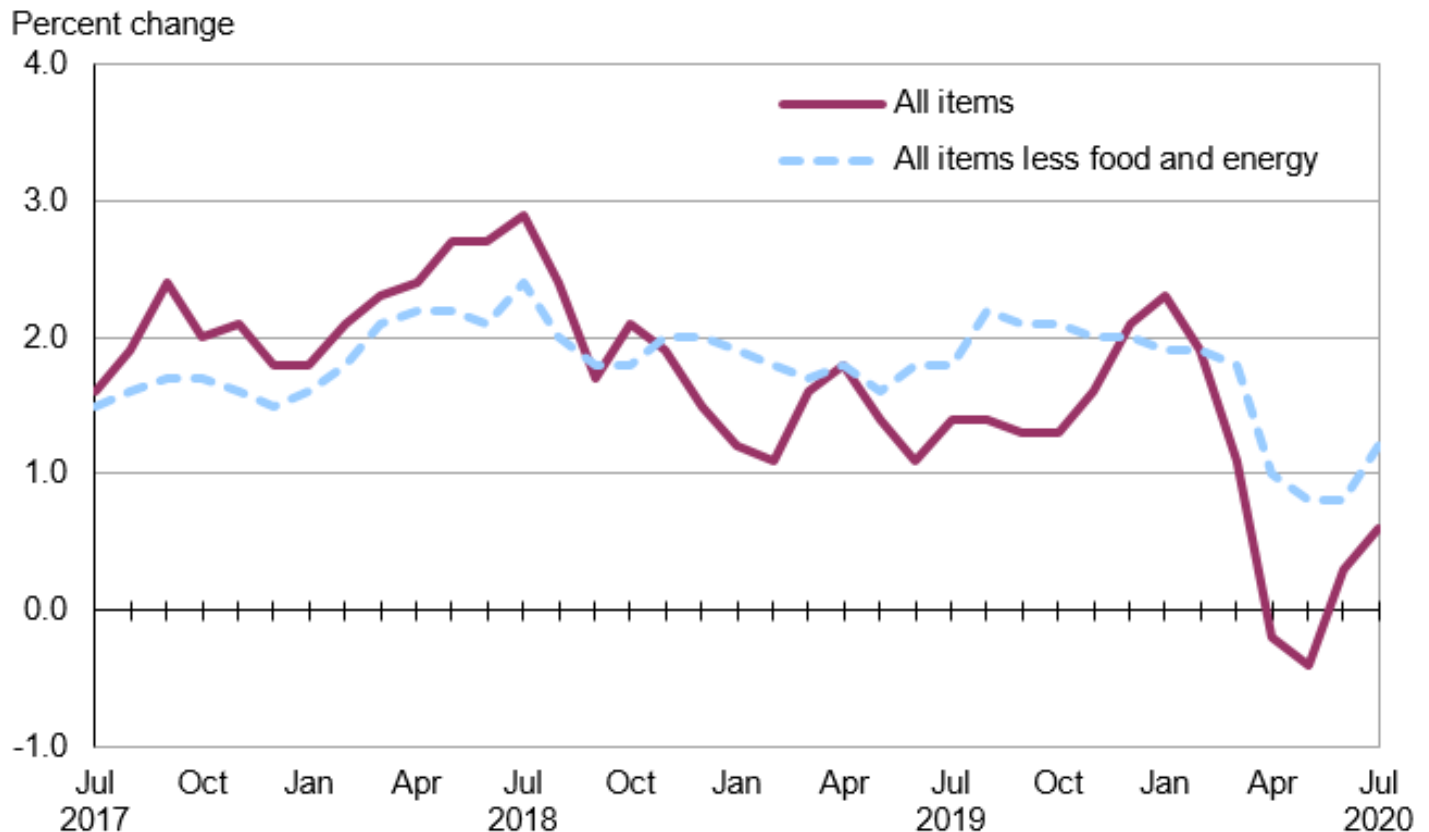
Consumer Price Index, South Region – July 2020

Prices in the South up 0.6 percent over the month and 0.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.6 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index for all item less food and energy rose 0.6 percent from June to July, while the energy index advanced 3.0 percent. The food index declined 0.5 percent in July. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U for the South rose 0.6 percent for the 12 months ending July 2020. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 3.9 percent. In contrast, the energy index declined 11.8 percent for the 12 months ending in July. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, July 2017–July 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index declined 0.5 percent in July, reflecting a 1.2-percent decrease in the food at home index. The food away from home index rose 0.4 percent in July.

The food index advanced 3.9 percent for the 12 months ending in July, reflecting increases in the food at home (4.9 percent) and food away from home (2.7 percent) indexes.

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.0 percent in July, led by a 6.3-percent increase in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes also increased in July, up 0.3 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

The energy index declined 11.8 percent for the 12 months ending in July, led by a 21.5-percent drop in the gasoline index. The electricity index also declined over the past year, down 1.7 percent. The utility (piped) gas service index rose 1.1 percent over the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in July. Several indexes increased over the month, most notably motor vehicle insurance (9.0 percent) and used cars and trucks (3.2 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent for the 12 months ending in July. The shelter index increased 2.2 percent over the 12-month span, and the medical care index rose 3.9 percent. Indexes that declined over the past year include apparel (-7.4 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-2.8 percent).

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. The all items CPI-U for the East South Central division rose 0.9 percent in July. The all items index for the West South Central and South Atlantic divisions also increased in July, up 0.7 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the all items index rose 0.9 percent in the South Atlantic division and 0.6 percent in the East South Central division. The all items index for the West South Central division was unchanged over the past year.

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	2.3
February.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.9
March.....	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.1
April.....	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4	0.5	1.8	-0.8	-0.2
May.....	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7	-0.1	1.4	-0.2	-0.4
June.....	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.3
July.....	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.6
August.....	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4	-0.1	1.4		
September.....	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3		
October.....	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.3		
November.....	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9	0.0	1.6		
December.....	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5	0.0	2.1		

The Consumer Price Index for August 2020 is scheduled to be released on Friday, September 11, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on July 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in July was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	245.696	247.223	248.619	0.6	1.2	0.6
All items (December 1977=100).....	398.552	401.030	403.295	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.124	265.795	264.373	3.7	0.1	-0.5
Food	265.593	267.440	266.084	3.9	0.2	-0.5
Food at home	250.905	253.705	250.534	4.9	-0.1	-1.2
Cereal and bakery products	290.045	291.619	292.139	3.5	0.7	0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	268.389	274.815	265.055	8.6	-1.2	-3.6
Dairy and related products	232.250	228.151	226.335	3.0	-2.5	-0.8
Fruits and vegetables	290.714	289.884	288.508	1.4	-0.8	-0.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	173.800	178.786	177.456	6.4	2.1	-0.7
Other food at home	218.195	221.096	219.653	4.5	0.7	-0.7
Food away from home.....	290.280	290.776	292.021	2.7	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	243.359	242.664	240.369	1.1	-1.2	-0.9
Housing	247.878	248.845	249.635	1.7	0.7	0.3
Shelter	288.376	288.558	289.271	2.2	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence	303.855	304.267	305.309	3.3	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	290.980	291.061	292.061	2.6	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	290.985	291.065	292.066	2.6	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	234.467	240.051	240.888	-0.5	2.7	0.3
Household energy	185.562	191.329	192.190	-1.4	3.6	0.5
Energy services.....	186.086	191.845	192.625	-1.4	3.5	0.4
Electricity	184.330	190.648	191.208	-1.7	3.7	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service	182.409	183.975	186.156	1.1	2.1	1.2
Household furnishings and operations	125.194	126.023	126.993	1.0	1.4	0.8
Apparel	122.185	123.677	122.242	-7.4	0.0	-1.2
Transportation	190.040	193.989	199.550	-6.2	5.0	2.9
Private transportation	190.017	194.101	200.137	-5.5	5.3	3.1
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	100.752	100.595	102.133	-0.6	1.4	1.5
New vehicles	152.558	152.551	152.806	-0.4	0.2	0.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	103.870	103.866	104.036	-0.3	0.2	0.2
New cars(3).....	151.588	152.070	152.137	-0.8	0.4	0.0
Used cars and trucks.....	139.854	138.443	142.878	-0.6	2.2	3.2
Motor fuel	151.268	168.104	178.531	-21.4	18.0	6.2
Gasoline (all types).....	149.829	166.921	177.501	-21.5	18.5	6.3
Unleaded regular(3)	144.248	161.303	171.837	-22.1	19.1	6.5
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	178.329	194.187	204.942	-18.1	14.9	5.5
Unleaded premium(3).....	181.597	196.945	206.574	-16.6	13.8	4.9
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	829.003	848.411	924.471	-2.8	11.5	9.0
Medical care	489.782	489.332	491.186	3.9	0.3	0.4
Medical care commodities.....	353.230	351.561	351.776	-1.5	-0.4	0.1
Medical care services.....	536.023	535.983	538.389	5.2	0.4	0.4
Professional services	372.431	372.352	374.077	2.2	0.4	0.5
Recreation(2).....	121.219	121.338	120.971	1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Education and communication(2).....	133.959	133.907	134.999	1.6	0.8	0.8
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,361.611	1,361.098	1,363.901	2.0	0.2	0.2
Other goods and services	437.909	439.636	442.820	2.8	1.1	0.7
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	245.696	247.223	248.619	0.6	1.2	0.6
Commodities	179.915	181.866	182.854	-1.5	1.6	0.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Commodities less food and beverages	142.128	144.096	145.904	-4.5	2.7	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	176.937	182.176	184.897	-8.1	4.5	1.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	210.972	218.370	223.410	-8.3	5.9	2.3
Durables	106.817	106.699	107.789	-0.6	0.9	1.0
Services	312.181	313.226	315.038	1.8	0.9	0.6
Rent of shelter(1)	296.351	296.546	297.272	2.3	0.3	0.2
Transportation services	330.931	335.516	347.221	-3.9	4.9	3.5
Other services	350.643	351.047	352.837	2.4	0.6	0.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	232.473	234.090	235.457	0.2	1.3	0.6
All items less food	242.395	243.872	245.686	0.0	1.4	0.7
All items less shelter	230.143	232.191	233.855	-0.2	1.6	0.7
Commodities less food	145.065	146.975	148.689	-4.3	2.5	1.2
Nondurables	218.282	221.810	222.551	-1.8	2.0	0.3
Nondurables less food	180.541	185.416	187.833	-7.5	4.0	1.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	212.824	219.457	223.811	-7.5	5.2	2.0
Services less rent of shelter(1)	341.940	344.078	347.300	1.4	1.6	0.9
Services less medical care services	292.245	293.366	295.117	1.4	1.0	0.6
Energy	165.400	176.191	181.487	-11.8	9.7	3.0
All items less energy	255.154	255.764	256.779	1.6	0.6	0.4
All items less food and energy	253.765	254.164	255.588	1.2	0.7	0.6
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.333	144.501	145.197	-1.1	0.6	0.5
Energy commodities	154.610	171.552	182.064	-21.1	17.8	6.1
Services less energy services	325.518	326.079	328.000	2.1	0.8	0.6

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.